



# **PRESS RELEASE**

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## **State Senator Wes Shoemyer – 18<sup>th</sup> District**

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### **SEN. SHOEMYER FILES BILL TO PROTECT CIRCUIT BREAKER TAX RELIEF PROGRAM**

JEFFERSON CITY – Senator Wes Shoemyer, D-Clarence, today filed legislation to ensure Missouri seniors continue to be eligible for the “circuit breaker” property tax relief program. The Missouri Property Tax Credit Claim or circuit breaker provides tax credits to certain senior citizens and individuals who are 100 percent disabled for a portion of the property taxes or rent they have paid for the year. Under the program, renters can receive up to \$750 in tax relief and those who own and occupy their home can receive up to \$1,100 in property tax relief.

Sen. Shoemyer says the Missouri Department of Revenue recently determined that renters would no longer be eligible for the tax relief program, despite the fact renters have been eligible for the program for decades.

“This is the property tax relief program targeted to the people who need it the most – our parents, our grandparents and disabled Missourians,” Sen. Shoemyer said. “These folks, most of whom are on fixed incomes, have relied on this program for years to help make ends meet. That money will be spent in our local communities, so it’s a win-win for everyone.”

Sen. Shoemyer has scheduled a meeting with officials from the Missouri Department of Revenue to determine why the department changed eligibility requirements for the circuit breaker program and to discuss his legislation. Shoemyer notes his proposed legislation has bi-partisan support.

“I think everyone recognizes the value of this program for our seniors and our disabled citizens, and I appreciate the support from my colleagues,” Sen. Shoemyer said.

The circuit breaker program provides property tax relief to qualified renters and people who own their homes part of the year. Those 65 years of age or older who are single with a household income of \$27,500 or less and married couples with a total household income of \$29,500 or less qualify for the program, as do citizens with a 100 percent disability. Those who own their homes qualify for the tax credit program if they are single and have a household income of \$30,000 or less, or married with a total household income of \$34,000 or less.

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